

BOOK REVIEWS

PAUL MARTIN BROWN (TEXT) and STAN FOLSOM (ARTWORK). 2008. **Field Guide to the Wild Orchids of Texas.** (ISBN 978-0-8130-3159-0, pbk). University Press of Florida, 15 Northwest 15th Street, Gainesville, FL 32611-2079, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.upf.com, 352-392-1351, 352-392-7302 fax, 1-800-226-3822). \$29.95, 316 pp., 286 color plates, 7 water color plates, 91 b/w illustrations, 67 maps, 6" × 9".

Once again Paul Martin Brown and partner artist Stan Folsom have produced a gem of a regional flora. Readers who are familiar with their work are already acquainted with the well established format of the volume: initial visual beauty accompanied by straightforward introductions and explanatory materials, logical progression in presentation of materials, concise and germane data, detailed regional maps, botanical glossary for non-botanists, appendices, and much more—all in a convenient-size volume to tuck into your backpack as you go searching for those plants *in situ*.

For both experienced and novice seekers of the wild orchid in its natural habitat, spotting and identifying the plant becomes much simpler with the aid of this field guide. Maps, photos, and artwork, in addition to the carefully included usual flowering times, increase the chances of finding the often elusive plants. Dichotomous keys (kept to essentials and primarily vernacular language) help to identify "finds." Simplifying the task are the line drawings and photos, carefully illustrating botanical characteristics (and terminology) necessary to separate and identify the plants. Even first time venturers into the field should experience enough success and excitement to become avid enthusiasts.

With the upcoming holidays, this exquisite volume is an excellent gift choice.—*Helen Jeude, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

ARTHUR M. SHAPIRO. 2007. **Field Guide to the Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions.** (ISBN 978-0-520-24469-6 hbk.; 978-0-520-24469-8, pbk.). University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. (**Orders:** CPFS c/o University of California Press, 1095 Essex Street, Richmond, CA 94801, U.S.A.; 609-883-1759; 609-883-7413 fax) \$30.00 hbk., \$18.95, pbk., 346 pp., 31 color plates, 11 × 18 cm.

One would expect excellence in a work by this well-known and accomplished lepidopterist, and, indeed, this field guide is among the best. It is also important for its coverage of regions where loss of habitat and therefore host plants continue to threaten a number of species and subspecies. The introduction alone is worth the price of the book with a concise explanation of the geography of the areas and a very readable and detailed analysis of the superfamily.

Species accounts include descriptions, distribution, flying seasons, and larval host plants—and much more. Notes of life histories, of behavior, even discussions of some confusing and controversial taxonomy are thorough and comprehensive. Invaluable is much information that could otherwise be gleaned only through extensive research in past and current lepidoptera literature. Still, it is a practical guide for the amateur butterfly watcher as well as those with intense serious interests. Timothy Manolis's very good illustrations show butterflies as the viewer sees them—in flight or pausing to nectar, with a depiction of the underside of the wings to assist in identification.

Added features are checklists of butterflies of the Bay Area and regional lists of those of the Sacramento Valley and Sutter Buttes.

This field guide can be recommended for any one interested in butterflies whether or not one frequents the regions covered. It is enjoyable and informative reading.—*Joann Karges, (TCU Library, retired), Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A.*